Dear Bill,

12/31/75

While I don't think you or anyone else can influence Bud once he decides the world is flat, he has brought about another of those totally unnecessary and quite nasty situations that under other circumstances and were it truthful would be intolerable and in this case is worse because of the Ray case and because this time it is hurtful to me and to my work.

I have written him about it, including a demand for a written apology. While I think he'd die first, I'm giving him an out.

I feel you should know about this not because you can influence him or because I'm asking you to - I'm not. It is rather than I believe you should know because one way or another this is going to stop. He deliberately lied about me when he represented me, which gives credibility to an article I regard as libellous and having that and other hurtful intent. If it is actionable, and with what I have and know that Bud doesn't, I believe it crosses the line into malice, and if I can do anything about it, I'm going to. Inevitably, this is going to involve Bud.

And if I have it, I will really unload. You know enough about the Ray case and expecially the preparations for and agreement on the evidentiary hearing to know what on that alone I can do. I cued you in on the Playboy thing because I felt they might do something (and they almost did) and because after going behind everyone's back to kill that he arranged a deal with Penthouse under which Jim and I would get paid for a different story, one that could have hurt Ray as the ~~Penthouse~~ Playboy story could not have. I had no deal with Playboy for Jim and/or me to be paid. And while he kills a story that would have been restricted to Ray's account of how it feels to live in solitary longer than any man other than Dreyfus, later, after Ray took the stand, to include an agreed-to repetition of the same, he refuses after I've raised the question about Wayne to see to it that Wayne is not allowed to write hurtful nonsense based on personal interviews. In fact, he refused to do anything about Wayne getting in by fraud, Bob's saying he was Ray's investigator. So, on this alone there is a record, I have records, and I'm at the point where regardless of all other considerations this is going to stop. I'm particularly upset because he picks a time when I'm sick, potentially fatally, to behave in so wretched and unnecessary a manner and then to lie.

Aside from exploring the possibilities of doing something about Quil, which published the article, I plan no initiatives. However, this is far from saying that nothing can happen. If nobody seeks me out as a consequence of this miserable business I'm still going to have to promote Post Mortem as soon as I'm up to more radio shows by phone. I'm bound to be asked about this. How can I respond? The man has to be crazy to think that if I wanted to, as I have in the past, this would permit me to be silent.

What I have to do I have no choice but to do. If the question does not come up I'll not raise if. But if it does I'm not in a position to duck it. And I will tell the truth. It is not going to be helpful to Bud's reputation or to the firm.

I have never started any of this business. Now I am without alternatives if I am faced with it.

This same kind of dirty-work with Lane and on the Hill has been deadly to what could have been accomplished. But I've said and done nothing about it, staying away instead except where I was asked.

If this thing develops the way it can, it may get pretty rough. I'm asking nothing of you. I really think there is nothing you or anyone else can do. Bud is irrational on this. I'm merely telling you a small part because I feel you should know. It follows upon a similar nastiness with the Post and some bad personal treatment that killed an afternoon for me several days ago. I really had gone to a lot of trouble to prepare if the Times does a job on him, which is in the works. Prior to this I'd taken time and money I can't afford to do what I could. His behavior in return was very bad. And all the indications are that there is something else about which he feels guilty. Best,